

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of manufacturing a honeycomb structural body having a sealing material layer on a peripheral portion of a pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member, comprising:

preparing a pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member;

applying a ~~paste-like~~ sealing material in an uncured paste state, which is a raw material of said sealing material layer, onto a circumferential ~~[[face]]~~ surface of ~~[[said]]~~ the pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member;

fitting onto the circumferential surface of the pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member a ring-shaped scraper having a ring-shaped center member configured to make a contact with the circumferential surface of the pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member such that the ring-shaped center member applies a sufficient pressure on the circumferential surface of the pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member to scrape the sealing material and forms a sealing material layer on the circumferential surface of the pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member while sliding along the circumferential surface of a pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member;

~~fitting a plate-shaped and ring-shaped scraper, which is configured to be brought into contact with the circumferential face of said pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member so as to slide thereon, to said pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member;~~

~~[[first]] moving said ring-shaped scraper in a [[first]] length direction of the pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member, thereby expanding~~ from one end of the pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member such that the paste-like sealing material applied on to the circumferential face of said pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member so as to spread is spread over the ~~entire~~ circumferential ~~[[face]]~~ surface of said pillar-shaped porous

honeycomb member, ~~said scraper being moved while the pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member is secured;~~ and

[[second]] moving said ring-shaped scraper in a ~~second~~ the length direction of the pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member, ~~starting from the end face of~~ from an opposite end of the pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member such that on the side opposite to the starting side of said first the moving of said ring-shaped scraper is reversed.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The manufacturing method according to claim 1, wherein the pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member has a cross-sectional shape perpendicular to the length direction which is other than a round shape.

Claims 3-4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, ~~further comprising disposing a~~ wherein the ring-shaped center member is made [[from]] of a material that is softer than [[the]] a material of said pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member ~~inside of said plate-shaped and ring-shaped scraper.~~

Claims 6-7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein a viscosity of said ~~paste-like~~ sealing material is in a range from 15 to 45 Pa·s.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~paste-like~~ sealing material comprises an inorganic filler and an inorganic binder, and said inorganic filler has an aspect ratio in a range from 1.01 to 10.00.

Claim 10 (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein the ring-shaped scraper comprises a plurality of cramping members having a flat ring shape and configured to hold the ring-shaped center member between the cramping members.

Claim 11 (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein the ring-shaped center member has a thickness which applies the sufficient pressure on the circumferential surface of the pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member.

Claim 12 (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein the ring-shaped center member comprises a synthetic rubber.

Claim 13 (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein the ring-shaped center member comprises a synthetic rubber selected from the group consisting of a urethane rubber, a styrene-butadiene rubber, a butadiene rubber, an isoprene rubber, a chloroprene rubber and a silicone rubber.

Claim 14 (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein the ring-shaped center member comprises an elastomer.

Claim 15 (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein the ring-shaped center member comprises an elastomer selected from the group consisting of polyisobutylene and polyethylene.

Claim 16 (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein the ring-shaped center member comprises a urethane rubber.